Deptt. of Telecommunications has issued licences for operation of cellular mobile telephone service in Telecom Circles. The tariff for calls originated from PSTN to the cellular net-works has been fixed as follows:

(i) The intra-Circle calls will be charged at the pulse rate of 8/16/24/36 seconds per unit call, irrespective of the location of calling and called subscriber.

(ii) The inter-Circle calls will be charged at the pulse rates applicable from the originating TAX to the designated national TAX in the called Circle, i.e. the usual STD rate upto the called national TAX.

2. For inter-metro city (Calcutta, Chennai, Delhi & Mumbai) traffic, charging at the pulse rate of 2/4/6/8 seconds per unit call will continue.

3. Circlewise list of national TAXs is given in the Annexure.

4. With this arrangement the calls among the metro cities and Telecom Circles will be charged as inter-Circle calls.

5. These orders will take effect from 15th February, 1997. Necessary technical arrangements may be made in the mean time. This tariff structure may be brought to the notic of public through print media by issue of advertisements at Circle level and also at SSA level immediately. Necessary additions in the tariff information in telephone directories may be carried out for future publications.

6. Traffic studies will be carried out for a period of one year from the operationalisation of the service, detailed instructions for which will be issued separately.

7. This issues with the concurrence of Finance vide Member (Fin) Dy. No. 53, dated 2.1.1997.

-Sd-

(A.K. Mittal)
Directors(CS)

Copy to:

1. CMD MTNL, New Delhi.
2. Sr. DDG (Fin)/Sr. DDG (TEC)/DDG (MS)/DDG (NM)/ DDG(VAS)/DDG(BS)/DDG (TRF).
3. CGM T&D Circle, Jabalpur.
4. Sr. GM Telephones, Ahmedabad/Bangalore.

Gauge Conversion

2184. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI L. RAMANA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sourth Central Railway has decided to take up two projects, 75 Km. Gauge conversion between coastal rock and Vasco-de-Gama and 126 Km. new railway line between Yerragontala and Nandyal expeditiously:

(b) if so, the time-bound programme made by the railways for these two projects; and

(c) the total expenditure likely to be involved in each project and the time by which work on these projects are likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details are as under:-

Section	Anticipated Cost	Target for Completion
Gauge Conversion		
(i) Castlerock-Vasco	Rs. 522 crores	31.3.97
New Line		
(i) Nandyal-Yerraguntla	Rs. 155.74 crores	Presently, the Final Location Survey and preparation of land acquisition plan and papers are in progress. Work will be taken up, once land becomes available. The project is targetted for completion in the Xth Plan period.

AC-3 Tier Coaches to Trains

2185. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Trains which are proposed to be provided AC-3 tier Coaches during the current year; and

(b) the details of other facilities which are likely to be provided for long distance travellers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) A.C. 3 tier sleeper coach is proposed to be provided on the following trains by March'97:-

1. 3143/3144 Darjeeling Mail
2. 2625/2626 Kerala Express
3. 5659/5660 Kamrup Express

Services to be provided with such coaches during April to December'97 has not yet been finalised.

(b) Bed rolls to the passengers are supplied in AC 3 tier coaches of the trains other than Rajdhani Express trains on demand on payment of prescribed charges. These are supplied free of charge to the passengers in AC 3 tier coaches Rajdhani Express trains because of a separate fare structure. Adequate catering arrangements are provided for long distance travellers through static and mobile units.

Ring Railway Service in Delhi

2186. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced of Ring Railway Service in Delhi.

(b) if so, the additional tracks proposed to be constructed along the main corridors to make the existing network viable;

(c) whether the Government propose to take up any project of Ring Railway Service before the proposed Mass Rapid Transit System; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) Ring Railway system was originally planned as Goods avoiding lines to avoid Goods Trains being brought into busy and congested yards of Delhi/New Delhi. They were not planned to carry commuters. During Asiad the passenger services were run to enable people from outside Delhi to travel on the Ring Railway. Presently the number of Goods train running on these lines is quite high and the scope for running additional passenger trains on this route is limited.

In the meeting of National Capital Region/Planning Board held on 24.9.96. It was decided that the feasibility study for laying two additional tracks alongside the Ring Railway in Delhi shall be conducted by Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi in Co-ordination with National Capital Region/Planning Board.

Indian Institute of Mass Communication

2187. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the branches of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication State-wise, and location wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more branches of the above Institute in various States;

(c) if so, the details thereof location-wise; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) The branches of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication are:

Name of the State	Location
(1) Orissa	Dhenkanal
(2) Kerala	Kottayam
(3) Madhya Pradesh	Jhabua
(4) Nagaland	Dimapur

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Flights to Singapore

2188. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether more flights are proposed to be operated to Singapore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether flights to Singapore are also proposed to be introduced from Hyderabad in view of public demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines is planning to introduce a thrice weekly flight each from Bangalore and Calcutta to Singapore and a once weekly flight from Madras to Singapore in the Summer Schedule, 1997.

(c) and (d) Air India and Indian Airlines have no plans at present to introduce a service from Hyderabad to Singapore.

Telecom Regulatory Authority in India

2189. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Telecom Regulatory Authority;

(b) if so, the main objectives therefor alongwith the powers and freedom thereof;

(c) the date from which the authority is likely to start its functions; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes Sir, The Telecom Regulatory